

**DRAFT** Minutes  
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Special Meeting – Thursday, October 27, 2016  
Mansfield Town Council Chambers

Members Present: G. Thompson, B. Wiles, D. Fecho, M. Hirschorn, R. Beebe, C. Chukwuogor

Staff Present: M. Hart, Town Manager; L. Painter, Director of Planning and Development (via telephone until 6:25 p.m.)

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Hart called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comment was received.

Approval of Minutes: Hirschorn MOVED and Beebe seconded to approve the October 5, 2016 special meeting minutes as presented. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business:

A. *Agricultural Committee Collaboration-Update.*

- *Farm to Table Week.* Dog Lane Café featured local products on their menu and the MBOE highlighted local produce on their new Facebook page.
- *Farm Business Interviews.* Hirschorn provided an overview of the interview conducted with Mountain Dairy representatives.

B. *Town Branding/Marketing.* Hart and Painter updated the Commission on the status of the meeting with CERC, noting that staff is in the introductory/learning phase of the project. Members asked for examples of communities in which CERC has provided marketing services. Staff will also reach out to CT Main Street to get information on how their marketing/branding campaigns have worked. The Commission noted that moving forward on this initiative in preparation for budget season is a high priority.

C. *Innovation Places.* Painter noted that the Northeast CT Innovation Hub did receive a \$50,000 planning grant from CT Next. Wiles volunteered to be the Commission liaison for the project.

D. *Staffing for Economic Development Program.* Hart reviewed the various options under consideration. Members expressed a need for more information prior to making a formal recommendation to the Town Council as part of the budget process. As an initial step, staff will invite representatives from Suffield, Farmington and Putnam to an EDC meeting to discuss how their communities approached staffing and funding for economic development activities. Members were asked to email staff suggested questions that can be provided to the communities in advance of the meeting. The questions will be discussed and finalized at the November meeting.

E. *Zoning Regulation Update.* Painter noted draft regulations will be forwarded to the Commission for comment prior to the formal public hearing process.

F. *Criteria for Business Recognition.* Staff will prepare a list of suggested businesses for review.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

### Reports

- Members requested an update on the Storrs Center tax appeal.
- Painter noted that the Mansfield Business and Professionals Association is changing to quarterly meetings; staff will advise the Commission of the new schedule when it is available.

Adjournment: Ferrigno adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM.